

GFSI Board Key Decisions

In an ongoing effort to provide more transparency to our stakeholders, the Global Food Safety Initiative will publish the main decisions taken by the Board of Directors following each Board meeting. Please find below the decisions following the meeting of 21st October 2009.

Key Decisions

- **Advisory Council:** A first meeting of the Advisory Council, a consultative and advisory body made up of academic, NGO and government representatives, will be convened in February in conjunction with the Global Food Safety Conference in Washington.
- **Board Membership:** Carol Cizek, of Kraft Foods, was invited to join the Board and has accepted for a three year term of office.
- **Communication Strategy:** GFSI will be engaging in numerous communication activities throughout 2010, including food safety podcasts, the publication of an annual report, a book spanning the last 10 years of GFSI and the development of key performance indicators to demonstrate and evaluate the impact, uptake and momentum of GFSI.
- **Meetings and Events:** The Global Food Safety Conference will take place in London in February 2011. GFSI will contribute as per previous years to the CCFA Food Safety Annual Conference on the 26/27th March in Shenzhen. A regional event in Brazil for autumn 2010 will be confirmed soon and more details will be posted on the GFSI website.
- **Product and Management Systems Accreditation:** Upon the recommendations of the working group convened to discuss product and management systems accreditation, the Board approved the acceptance of schemes for benchmarking in the future that have either ISO Guide 65 or ISO 17021 as their accreditation standards. A draft addendum has been circulated for comments and the final version will be presented to the GFSI Board on 1st December 2009.
- **Global Red Meat Standard:** The Board granted recognition of this scheme, managed by the Danish Agriculture & Food Council and developed specifically for slaughtering, cutting, deboning and the sale of red meat and meat products.
- **Technical Working Groups:**
 - 1) **Best Food Safety Practice**
 - a) Benchmarking Process
 - a. Scheme owners may submit their schemes to GFSI during the revision of the Guidance Document, but they will be informed of the revision and informed that their scheme would therefore have to undergo a second review within the year if they choose to pursue the benchmarking process at this stage.
 - b. The GFSI Board will provide feedback to the group on the benchmarking process, in order to further develop the work begun in Paris in October.
 - b) Supply Chain

- a. The supply chain models developed by the working group will be added into the appendix of the revised Guidance Document.
- b. Allergens (particularly in relation to seafood, nuts, seeds and grains) will be further detailed in the Guidance Document version 6, as will veterinary medicine.
- c. The working group will be asked to further review the Guidance document requirements to determine whether generic or more sector specific requirements are needed for all steps in the food supply chain.

2) Global Markets

- The Board supported the ongoing work of this group, and is looking forward to learning more about the results from the pilots.

3) Global Regulatory Affairs

- The Board approved the vision of the Regulatory Affairs Group to identify the various global regulatory requirements and draft a position paper by February.

